

I am representing GAIN: Group for Accessibility Improvement in Northampton.

We would like to see Northampton be a city that is welcoming and accessible for anyone who lives here or visits here.

A suggestion for Accessibility Improvement in Northampton:

It is the case, in downtown Northampton, that there are many restaurants, retailers and offices with "one-step-up" (at least) to get into the establishment.

We suggest that:

1. Two-foot and/or Three-foot ramps (size & number?)
2. be available from the Northampton Police Station (open 24, 7, 365/6).
3. One of these ramps may be taken out for personal use (length of time?);
4. with a deposit (percent of replacement value? First ones will be donated.);
5. and with a signature (ID required?) to take ownership of the ramp for the lending period. First draft notes of a lease agreement are attached.

There is still much to be worked out, but this suggested Accessibility Improvement will benefit people with mobility difficulties; a group sure to increase as our population ages and assistive technology improves.

However any of this turns out, the Police Station would benefit from Push-Button Door Openers. I'm not an ADA expert, but there may well be grounds for a civil action lawsuit: a recently constructed, city-owned building that is NOT accessible. How did that happen?

GAIN would like to see ramps available for community use so that people who use wheelchairs or scooters can have more complete access in Northampton.

Proposed Ramp Lease Agreement

This ramp is provided for your use and control  
for the duration of this Lease Agreement.

*Lease Valid Until:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ramp Number:* \_\_\_\_\_

Please return your ramp to the Police Station  
by the time stated above.

Thank You for using Northampton's Ramp Agreement Program.  
Leaser Copy

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City Copy

*Signature of Leaser:*

\_\_\_\_\_

*Lease Valid Until:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Ramp Number:* \_\_\_\_\_